

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2299

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN US GV

SUBJECT: HALCO MINING CBG

REF: STATE 220389

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY COMMENTS ON ISSUES DISCUSSED
WITH C.D. WARD.

2. POLITICAL UNREST. ALTHOUGH ATTACKS AGAINST WESTERN
POWERS SEEM TO BE PHASING OUT, THE ANTI-FOULAH ("ANTI-RAC-
ISM") CAMPAIGN CONTINUES. ACCORDING TO ARNAUD, THERE IS
ALREADY CONSIDERABLE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FOULAHS SEEK-
ING CBG EMPLOYMENT. UNABLE PREDICT HOW FAR THIS UNPLEASANT
CAMPAIGN MAY BE PRESSED.

3. SOVIET TAX PAYMENT. INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS RE OBK
FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS REPORTED SEPTTEL. BELIEVE IN ANY
CASE IT IS ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE FOR HALCO REPRESENTATIVES
TO REQUEST FULL AIRING OF OBK ARRANGEMENTS AT CBG BOARD
MEETING.

4. VISITS TO GUINEA BY OFFICERS OF AMERICAN MEMBER FIRMS:
AGREE WITH WARD VIEWS.

5. GOG/HALCO RELATIONSHIP WITHIN CBG: THE QUESTION
OF 50-50 AS OPPOSED TO 49-51 SEEMS OF SURFACE IMPORT-
ANCE ONLY. IN FACT, GOG HAS AND WILL RETAIN THE WHIP
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HAND. ANTICIPATE DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS OVER GOG DESIRE

TO TRANSFER SOME HALCO FUNCTIONS AND MUCH HALCO AUTHORITY
TO CBG ITSELF.

6. SHIPLEY'S STATUS REMAINS AMBIGUOUS. ALTHOUGH ARNAUD
(BACK IN CONAKRY FOR THIS WEEK) BELIEVES GOG IS NOW
SATISFIED THAT SHIPLEY'S CHARGES AGAINST HIM WERE GROUND-
LESS, SHIPLEY IS NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED BACK IN NEXT FEW
DAYS AND HOW LONG HE WILL STAY NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW.

7. AYEKOYE: ALUSUISSE HAS BEGUN WORK UNDERP PRELIMINARY
ENGINEERING CONTRACT AND GOG SEEMS CONFIDENT THAT ARABS
HAVE DECIDED TO COMMIT FUNDS. UNDERSTAND WARD IS QUITE
RIGHT THAT AYEKOYE AREA LIES WITHIN HALCO CONCESSION.
ARNAUD SAYS TO HIS KNOWLEDGE GOG HAS NEVER RAISED THIS
MATTER WITH HALCO. HALCO MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE
HOW THEY WISH TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM. IT MIGHT PROVE IN HALCO'S
INTEREST TO YIELD THE AYEKOYE AREA AS QUID PRO QUO ON SOME
OTHER ISSUE. EMBASSY NOT INFORMED AS TO PROPORTION OF TOTAL
HALCO CONCESSION RESOURCES AYEKOYE AREA REPRESENTS, AL-
THOUGH MINERAL CONTENT AT AYEKOYE IS SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER
THAN SANGAREDI.

8. ARNAUD WILL ATTEND HALCO BOARD MEETING IN VIENNA EARLY
NEXT WEEK AND HAS BEEN CHARGED TO BRING ALONG AGENDA
PROPORALS FOR OCTOBER 20 CBG BOARD MEETING. HE IS
TRYING TO WORK THESE OUT WITH GOG.
HARROP

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